these gaps are bridged then, the eligible couples will opt for the small family norm. Government, in pursuit of this policy, is vastly encouraged precisely because ten states/UTs have already achieved the replacement levels of fertility without using incentives or disincentives, another eleven states are closely following their example and are likely to achieve replacement levels soon. There is admittedly some regional imbalance in that some states continue to lag behind. Government is targeting focused attention towards these states.

Nevertheless, National Population Policy 2000 provisions for some promotional and motivational measures targeted at all-India level as reward for demonstrating improvement in achievement of some family welfare and demographic indicators. Some motivational measures are also addressed to couples that adopt the small family norm.

Protection to ISM

4826. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to protect Indian Systems of Medicine;

(b) if so, whether the experts have felt that Indian Systems of Medicine need to be protected from exploitation by others;

(c) whether any concrete formula in this regard has been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government is aware that the medicinal use of our plants has been patented by other countries claiming as innovations. The Government is, therefore, establishing Traditional Knowledge Digital Library covering 35,000 Ayurvedic formulations, in the first phase. This will prevent patenting of medicinal use already in public domain. The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for Ayurveda is expected to be completed this year. Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for Siddha and Unani will be taken up later.